

NIH Director to Visit OKC, Announce Major Grants

Oklahoma City, OK – On **Tuesday, June 29th** Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., the Director of the National Institute of Health (NIH) will be arriving in Oklahoma City at the invitation of Congressman Ernest J. Istook (R-OK).

“Dr. Zerhouni’s visit is a testament to the great success of biomedical research in Oklahoma,” said Istook. **“For too many years, federal medical grants were going mostly to a handful of states, at Oklahoma’s expense. Now thanks to quality medical researchers in Oklahoma, we’re making great progress.”**

During his two-day visit, Dr. Zerhouni will be touring Oklahoma City’s world-class medical research facilities, interacting with key Oklahoma researchers and scientists, and making a major announcement, including **the largest NIH grant ever received by an Oklahoma institution.**

As the most senior Republican on the appropriations subcommittee which funds the NIH, Istook has been working for years to end the bias which, in the past, was awarding 93% of federal medical research to only 24 states—leaving only 7% for Oklahoma and the 25 other states.

Due to Istook’s work over the past seven years, \$214 million was reserved this year for medical research in Oklahoma and these other states (compared to \$5 million in 1998)—an amount that is growing each year to end the long-time imbalance. So far, Oklahoma institutions have competed for and received more of these research funds than any other state.

WHO: Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, NIH Director
U.S. Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK)
Grant recipients

WHAT: Press conference announcing major grants
for Oklahoma’s biomedical community

WHEN: Tuesday, June 29th
1:15 – 1:45 p.m.

WHERE: Biomedical Research Center, Room 103
975 N.E. 10th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Press may park on the far west side of Lot J next to the research center